

\$37 million in student loans to college students.

Also brought to my attention is the fact that the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is spending less money on transitional housing and more on emergency shelters for the homeless. Transitional housing is designed to house women and children on a temporary basis when they leave an abusive environment and need a safe place to live while transitioning to a new home and life.

Statistics prove that affordable housing is very limited. For example, in Weld County, the median home price in 1990 was \$68,118, climbing to \$123,868 in 1996—an 84% increase. Rental rates climbed during the same period at 43%, going from \$357 to \$511, while vacancy rates remained low. During the same time, job growth jumped up 31.7%, but most of the new jobs were created in low-paying service and retail sectors. With average median family income rising only by 35%, housing is unattainable for many.

It was my concern over the lack of affordable housing that inspired me to co-sponsor H.R. 2990, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount of low-income housing credits which may be allocated to each State, and to index such amount for inflation; and H.R. 979 (Private Activity Bonds), which will increase the cap and help alleviate the pressure on our housing market. Sister Mary Alice Murphy described the housing assistance credit as having a positive impact on the community. Additionally, I remain firmly committed to eliminating the numerous federally mandated regulations which drive up the cost of building homes and those which dictate how a community administers their programs. I am pleased to carry the message for more affordable and available housing to my colleagues for this problem affects not only the people of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, but also people nationwide.

TRIBUTE TO CHESTERFIELD SMITH, ESQ., ON THE DEDICATION OF THE CHESTERFIELD SMITH CENTER FOR EQUAL JUSTICE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Miami-Dade's unsung heroes, Attorney Chesterfield Smith. The dedication of the Chesterfield Smith Center for Equal Justice on April 23, 1998 is a well-deserved honor.

Attorney Smith represents the best of our community. Having dedicated a major portion of his life to making the justice system work on behalf of the less fortunate in Miami-Dade, he was relentless in his development of pro bono legal services program that responded to the crying needs of our community's poor. His was a crusade that maximized understanding and compassion for countless destitute who severely lack the financial wherewithal to have their cases move up through the maze of the legal system.

Under his leadership many lives have been saved and countless families have been rendered whole because of the poor's accessibil-

ity to pro-bono legal services. He was virtually the lone voice in the wilderness in exposing his righteous indignation over the hopelessness of countless individuals who through the various crises of poverty rendered them helpless before the legal system. At the same time, he has been forthright and forceful in advocating the tenets of equal treatment under the law for the poor who have been remanded to the complex proceedings of the court system. His sensitivity toward them knew no bounds, and he was likewise untiring in seeking the appropriate guidance and counseling strategies for them.

In an April 5, 1998 Miami Herald write-up, Attorney Smith was genuinely lauded as a community leader whose " * * * life serves as an example of how much difference each of us can make in behalf of the less fortunate." Singlehandedly he has championed a career-long commitment to free legal services to the poor.

In his stint on the prestigious Holland & Knight law firm, Attorney Smith truly represents an exemplary community servant who abides by the dictum that those who have less in life through no fault of their own should somehow be lifted up by those who have been blessed with life's greater amenities. As a gadfly among South Florida's law firms, he is wont to prod his colleagues toward the support of the Legal Services of Greater Miami to provide a more hopeful life for our community's poor.

As one of those hardy spirits who chose to reach out to those living in public housing projects, Attorney Smith thoroughly understood the accouterments of power and leadership. He sagely exercised them alongside the mandate of his conviction and the wisdom of his knowledge, focusing his energies to enhance the well-being of a community he learned to love and care for so deeply.

His undaunted efforts in the legal system through his tenure as President of the American Bar Association helped shape and form the agenda of many legal organizations. His word is his bond to those who dealt with him, not only in moments of triumphal exuberance in helping many of the poor turn their lives around, but also in his resilient quest to transform Miami-Dade county into a veritable mosaic of vibrant cultures and diverse peoples converging together into this great experiment that is America.

Numerous accolades with which various organizations have honored him symbolize the unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect and admiration he enjoys from our community. Attorney Chesterfield Smith, lawyer par excellence, truly exemplifies a one-of-a-kind leadership whose courage and resilient spirit that genuinely dignifies the role of a community servant.

Today's dedication is genuinely deserved! I truly salute him on behalf of a grateful community.

TRIBUTE TO KATE McLEAN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to a woman who has made her mission in life to help our society's most

vulnerable find some sort of warmth in a world that can often be so cold. Kate McLean of Ventura, California, is an extraordinary person who has touched the lives of thousands, leading the charge of a successful organization which has been the saving grace to many in her community.

It's easy to look into the eyes of those in need, and feel sympathy. But for many, it's even easier to look away and forget about the unexpected harsh realities life brings. But when Kate McLean saw a person in need, a living tragedy, she didn't look away, but instead helped them look towards their future. Kate did more than recognize the social ills that so often ruin lives. Instead of extending fleeting sympathy, Kate McLean actually made a difference—a difference in the lives of the abandoned and the abused. She has helped the homeless find shelter and runaways find refuge and understanding.

Kate has achieved these and countless other compassionate deed through an organization called Interface Children Family Services, a non-profit which she co-founded. To name just a few of their services, this organization offers assistance to families in crises, a 24-hour hotline for troubled teens, and shelters for battered women and their children. Under Kate McLean, hundreds of thousands of children and families have been helped at Interface from 1973 to 1990. Today, Interface Children Family Services continues to aid those in crisis situations, expanding on the foundation Kate McLean helped to start.

After Kate left Interface in 1990, she took her vast experiences to help the Ventura County Community Foundation, which under her supervision, increased Ventura County's endowed resources for charities from \$300,000 to more than \$16 million.

April 24, 1998 marks the 25th anniversary of the Interface Children Family Services. On this special occasion I want to recognize Kate McLean as a shining example, and to thank her for doing what others may have the yearning to do, but not the ambition. I want to thank Kate McLean for being such a vital part to the Ventura County Community, and for being our angel of hope.

EARTH DAY

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you on this Earth Day to commend our nation on how we have left a legacy to our children by protecting the natural resources of our national parks, wildlife refuges and national forests. However, it is just as important for us to double our efforts to protect the habitat of our urban areas.

I feel strongly that the children of our cities also deserve to breathe cleaner air, and have green fields to play on as they mature under the blue skies of Alabama.

I am proud that our nation has made tremendous progress over the past 25 years in the area of environmental management. Our rivers and lakes in which our children fish, swim and boat are significantly cleaner; the air in which we breathe is improved and tremendous progress has been made in cleaning up